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CANADIAN VISITOR TESTS POSITIVE

The Public Access Room at the state Capitol closes due to possible COVID-19 virus contamination

By Kevin Dayton and Kristen Consillio
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A Canadian doctor who visited Hawaii last week has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, but state health officials are not currently tracking those who may have been exposed through close contact with her in the islands.

The 32-year-old oncologist at the Hamilton Health Sciences Juravinski Cancer Centre returned Saturday to Burlington, Ontario, following a trip to Hawaii and developed mild respiratory symptoms on Monday afternoon, according to the hospital. She became the city's first confirmed case of COVID-19 on Tuesday and is currently in self isolation.

While Canadian health authorities acknowledge it was a "travel-related case," local officials still don't know where she visited while in Hawaii and who she may have had "close personal face-to-face contact" with for more than 10 minutes.

"We understand that people believe that when there are issues in other countries that might have been related to travel here that people want information. However … usually we defer to federal authorities to work with other countries," said Janice Okubo, state Department of Health spokeswoman. "That's a little outside of our range of jurisdiction. We don't know if this individual was actually ill in Hawaii. We're relying on our federal authorities (specifically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), to provide us with information on international issues."

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, medical officer of health and commissioner for the Hamilton Region Health Department in Ontario, said at a news conference that Canadian health officials are "working closely to identify all known contacts who may have been potentially exposed to the virus and to assess if there is a potential health risk."

The doctor, who was working at the cancer center on Monday, treated 14 patients and had contact with two physicians, five health care workers and a senior oncology resident, but was not sick on her return flight home, according to Canadian news reports.

Meanwhile, the state Capitol's Public Access Room was abruptly closed until March 18 after a roommate of an employee in the office

Please see **VISITOR,** *A9*

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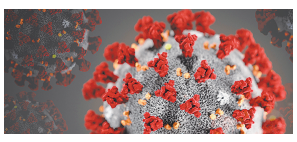
Ala Moana Center was less crowded than usual Wednesday.



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

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Solemn Trump limits travel from Europe

By Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller, Lisa Mascaro and Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON >> Taking dramatic action, President Donald Trump sharply restricted passenger travel from 26 European nations to the U.S. and moved to ease the economic cost of a viral pandemic that is roiling global financial markets and disrupting the daily lives of Americans.

Trump, in a rare Oval Office address to the nation Wednesday night, said the monthlong restriction on travel would begin late Friday at midnight. After days of playing down the coronavirus threat, he blamed Europe for not acting quickly enough to address the "foreign virus" and claimed that U.S. clusters were "seeded" by European travelers.

"We made a life-saving move with early action on China," Trump said. "Now we must take the same action with Europe."

Trump said the restrictions won't apply to the United Kingdom, and there would be exemptions for "Americans who have undergone appropriate screenings." He said the U.S. would monitor the situation to determine if travel could be reopened earlier.

The State Department followed Trump's remarks by issuing an extraordinary global health advisory cautioning U.S. citizens to

Please see **TRUMP,** *A10*

Virus may cut state revenue by $225 million

By Kevin Dayton
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A panel of experts tasked with predicting how much the state will collect in taxes each year has dramatically scaled back its projections for next year, suggesting Hawaii will feel substantial economic pain from the worldwide coronavirus scare.

The projections approved by the state Council on Revenues Wednesday morning are critical because Gov. David Ige and state lawmakers are required to use them as the basis for the state budget.

The council slashed its projection for the fiscal year that begins July 1 from 4% growth to zero growth, predicting that state tax collections will be flat next year. That means the state will have about $225 million less to spend next year than Gov. David Ige expected when he prepared the new state budget.

Meanwhile, House Finance Committee Chairwoman Sylvia Luke said lawmakers are planning to boost state construction spending as a way of stimulating the local economy during what may be an economic downturn triggered by the COVID-19 scare.

The House last month gave preliminary approval to a construction budget that would boost total construction spending for this

Please see **REVENUE,** *A8*

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